	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Notice of Allowability	09/778,562	COHEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven P. Sax	2174	
The MAILING DATE of this communication apperature All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT R of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in or other appropriate commits in the second in the	n this application. If not include unication will be mailed in due	ded e course. <b>THIS</b>
	<u>erit 12 10/00</u> .		
2. X The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-41,44,46-48,53 and 54</u> .			
<ul> <li>3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority unally a) All b) Some* c) None of the:</li> <li>1. Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>2. Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority do</li> </ul>	e been received. e been received in Application	on No	ation from the
International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).			
* Certified copies not received:			
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONN THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		e a reply complying with the re	equirements
4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subm INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give			NOTICE OF
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.			
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached			
1) 🗌 hereto or 2) 🗍 to Paper No./Mail Date			
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date			
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in t			e back) of
<ol> <li>DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depo attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT</li> </ol>			Note the
Attachment(s)  1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. ⊠ Interview S	<ul> <li>5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. ☑ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12/16/05.</li> <li>7. ☑ Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> </ul>	ГО-152)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0	Paper No. 98), 7. ⊠ Examiner's		
Paper No./Mail Date4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. ⊠ Examiner's 9. ☐ Other	Statement of Reasons for All	lowance
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## **Reasons For Allowance**

1. This application has been examined.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. This was made to fully bring out the features in the independent claims which in combination distinguish over the prior art of record. It is noted that claims 12, 16, 30, and 34, were determined in view of further consideration to still need amending to fully distinguish over the art. Thus these claims, as well as claims 1 and 44, are amended. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

3. Please amend the claims as follows:

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

## **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for modifying the structure of a network accessible web site based on an analysis of activity associated with the web site, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a web site comprising a plurality of objects of interest <u>including a</u> <u>plurality of pages within the website</u>;

identifying one or more structural relationships for navigating <u>between</u> the plurality of objects of interest;

identifying <u>within monitored user interactions</u> a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating <u>between</u> the plurality of objects of interest <u>and determining user navigational objectives</u>;

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maintaining data representative of said objects of interest, structural relationships including links between objects, and sequential user navigational accesses, and determined user navigational objectives; and

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation for modifying the structural relationships, including links, between objects of interest to influence <u>alternate</u> future user navigation <u>between objects of interest</u>.

- 2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the web site comprises a home page, and a plurality of objects of interest, the home page and plurality of objects of interest being accessible by a network address.
- 3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of identifying one or more structural relationships for navigating the plurality of objects of interest further comprises the steps of:

accessing said web site via said network address;

parsing structure data of said web site to identify links between objects of interest; and

storing data representative of said links as structural relationships.

4. (previously presented) A method for modifying the structure of a network accessible web site based on an analysis of activity associated with the web site, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring activity associated with said web site;

maintaining data representative of said activity and a present structure of said web site;

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation; and modifying said structure of said web site based on said recommendation

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wherein the step of identifying said present structure of said web site further comprises the steps of:

accessing said web site via said network address;

parsing the structure data of said web site to generate said present structure; and storing data representative of said present structure; and

wherein the objects of interest of the web site have an inter-connection relationship to each other, numeric identifiers, names, and aliases to the names, and the step of parsing the structure data further comprises at least one of the following steps:

- (a) retrieving said names of said objects of interest;
- (b) retrieving said numeric identifiers of said objects of interest;
- (c) retrieving said aliases corresponding to said objects of interest;
- (d) retrieving said inter-connection relationship of said objects of interest;
- (e) retrieving a list of children, wherein said children are the identities of all said objects of interest that may be accessed directly from a particular object of interest;
- (f) retrieving a list of parents, wherein said parents are the identities of all said objects of interest that have direct access to a particular object of interest; and
  - (g) retrieving a list of page distances, wherein said page distances are the number of objects of interest that must be accessed to get from one object of interest to a different object of interest.
- 5. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.
- 6. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 2.

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7. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 3.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein identifying <u>within</u> <u>monitored user interactions</u> a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating <u>between</u> the plurality of objects of interest comprises the steps of:

identifying a user of said user accesses;
assembling the user accesses of a single user into a user session;
mapping data associated with said user session; and
storing said data associated with said user session in a

data storage means.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of mapping the data further comprises the following steps:

retrieving the order of user accesses to said web site's objects of interest; and retrieving the time of said user accesses to said web site's objects of interest.

- 10. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 8.
- 11. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 9.
- 12. (currently amended) A method for modifying the structure of a network accessible web site based on an analysis of activity associated with the web site, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a web site comprising a plurality of objects of interest including a plurality of pages within the website;

identifying one or more structural relationships for navigating between the plurality of objects of interest;

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identifying within monitored user interactions a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating between the plurality of objects of interest and determining user navigational objectives;

maintaining data representative of said objects of interest, structural relationships including links between objects, sequential user navigational accesses, and determined user navigational objectives;

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation for modifying the structural relationships, including links, between objects of interest to influence alternate future user navigation between objects of interest; and

monitoring activity associated with said web site;

maintaining data representative of said activity and a present structure of said web site;

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation; and modifying said structure of said web site based on said recommendation; wherein the web site comprises a home page, and a plurality of objects of interest, the home page and plurality of objects of interest being accessible by a network address, and further comprising the step of identifying said present structure of said web site; and

wherein said maintaining step further comprises at least one of the following steps:

- (a) creating an elements data structure, wherein said elements data structure indicates a total number of objects of interest within said web site;
- (b) creating a session step data structure, wherein said session step data structure indicates the maximum number of steps in any of said user sessions;
- (c) creating a SPUS structure, wherein said SPUS structure indicates a total number of steps per user session;
- (d) creating a TUS structure, wherein said TUS structure indicates a total number of user sessions;
- (e) creating a CLASS structure, wherein said CLASS structure indicates a

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class for each object of interest in said web site; and

(f) creating a TC structure, wherein said TC structure indicates a total number of said classes in said web site.

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13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said maintaining step further comprises at least one of the following steps:

- (a) creating a distance matrix, said distance matrix having two dimensions, wherein said distance matrix indicates the shortest object distance;
- (b) creating a links-to matrix, said links-to matrix having two dimensions in the form [x][y], wherein said links-to matrix indicates the number of links to a particular object of interest by a specific Step or less, the number of links is indicated by [y], the specific Step or less is indicated by [x];
- (c) creating a links-from matrix, said links-from matrix having two dimensions in the form [x][y], wherein said links-from matrix indicates the total number of links from a certain object of interest to other objects of interest by a specific Step or less, the total number of links to other objects of interest being indicated by [x], and the specific Step or less being indicated by [y];
- (d) creating a total accesses-to matrix, wherein said total accesses-to matrix indicates the total number of accesses to a particular object of interest in a specific Step within said user session;
- (e) creating a total access-from matrix, wherein said total access-from matrix indicates the total number of accesses from a particular object in a specific step within said user session; and
- (f) creating an access matrix, said access matrix having three dimensions in the form [x][y][z], wherein said access matrix indicates the number of times an object of interest was accessed from one particular object of interest to a different object of interest at a specific Step, from one particular object of interest being indicated by [x], to a different object of interest being indicated by [y], and the specific Step being indicated by [z].
- 14. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 12.

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15. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 13.

16. (currently amended) A method for modifying the structure of a network accessible web site based on an analysis of activity associated with the web site, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a web site comprising a plurality of objects of interest including a plurality of pages within the website;

identifying one or more structural relationships for navigating between the plurality of objects of interest;

identifying within monitored user interactions a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating between the plurality of objects of interest and determining user navigational objectives;

maintaining data representative of said objects of interest, structural relationships including links between objects, sequential user navigational accesses, and determined user navigational objectives;

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation for modifying the structural relationships, including links, between objects of interest to influence alternate future user navigation between objects of interest; and

monitoring activity associated with said web site;

maintaining data representative of said activity and a present structure of said web site:

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation; and modifying said structure of said web site based on said recommendation; wherein the web site comprises a home page, and a plurality of objects of interest, the home page and plurality of objects of interest being accessible by a

network address, and further comprising the step of identifying said present structure of

said web site; and

wherein the basic rules are applied utilizing a rule engine algorithm and an anomalies floatation device, the step of applying a set of rules further comprising the

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## steps of:

 applying a rule of object distance, wherein said object distance is the number of objects of interest that must be accessed to get from one of said objects of interest to a different object of interest;

- (b) applying a rule of Step, wherein the Step is the number of objects of interest that is actually accessed to get from one of said objects of interest to a different said objects of interest during said user session; and
- (c) applying a rule of Class, wherein said Class is the number of objects of interest that must be accessed to get from said homepage of said web site to said objects of interest.
- 17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said step of applying a set of rules further comprises the steps of:

transferring the maintained data to said anomaly floatation device;
comparing an expected activity data to said data representative of said activity,
wherein said anomalies floatation device having an output comprised of anomalies; and
grouping said anomalies according to said activity, wherein said grouping is
performed by said rule engine algorithm to indicate recommendations.

- 18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of comparing further comprises at least one of the following steps:
  - applying a step-distance anomaly, wherein said step-distance anomaly is based on at least the number of accesses in the particular Step and the distance between two particular objects of interest;
  - (b) applying a no-link anomaly, wherein said no-link anomaly is based at least in part on the number of accesses in a particular Step and the distance between the two particular objects of interest, the two particular objects of interest having no direct hyperlink;
  - (c) applying a dominant anomaly, wherein said dominant anomaly is based at least in part on a dominant object of interest from which the most

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accesses are made to a particular object of interest in a particular Step;

 (d) applying a deficiency anomaly, wherein said deficiency anomaly is based at least in part on a deficient object of interest to which a deficient number of accesses are made from a particular object of interest in a particular Step;

- (e) applying a dominant-connect anomaly, wherein said dominant-connect anomaly is based at least in part on a dominant number of accesses being made from said dominant object of interest among a plurality of connected objects of interest to a particular object of interest in a particular Step;
- (f) applying a deficiency-connect anomaly, wherein said deficiency-connect anomaly is based at least in part on a deficient number of accesses being made from a deficient object of interest among a plurality of connected objects of interest to a particular object of interest in a particular Step; and
- (g) applying a high access ratio anomaly, wherein said high access ratio anomaly is based at least in part on the number of accesses in a particular step using only one direction of access and the distance between the two particular objects of interest, the two particular objects of interest having no direct hyperlink.

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19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein if the step of applying a dominant anomaly is applied, the step of comparing further comprises at least one of the following steps:

- (h) applying a threshold-dominant anomaly, wherein said threshold-dominant anomaly is based at least in part on the most accesses to a given object of interest at a plurality of step distances, the accesses to said given object of interest must exceed a pre-set minimum; and
- (i) applying a complete-a-link anomaly, wherein said complete-a-link anomaly is based at least in part on the ratio of accesses from a particular objects of interest directly linked to another versus a particular objects of interest linked to others by a greater distance.
- 20. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 16.
- 21. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 17.
- 22. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 18.
- 23. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 19.
- 24. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of modifying the structural relationships between objects of interest is performed automatically by a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the step, based at least in part on said recommendation for modifying the structural relationships between objects of interest of said web site.

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25. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of modifying the structural relationships between objects of interest is performed by interacting with said web site structure through human intervention, based at least on said recommendation for modifying the structural relationships between objects of interest.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating the plurality of objects of interest comprises the steps of:

identifying a user of said user accesses; assembling the user accesses of a single user into a user session; mapping data associated with said user session; and storing said data associated with said user session in a data storage means.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of mapping the data further comprises the steps of:

retrieving the order of user accesses to said web site's objects of interest; and retrieving the time of said user accesses to said web site's objects of interest.

- 28. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 26.
- 29. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 27.
- 30. (currently amended) A method for modifying the structure of a network accessible web site based on an analysis of activity associated with the web site, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a web site comprising a plurality of objects of interest including a plurality of pages within the website;

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identifying one or more structural relationships for navigating between the plurality of objects of interest;

identifying within monitored user interactions a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating between the plurality of objects of interest and determining user navigational objectives;

maintaining data representative of said objects of interest, structural relationships including links between objects, sequential user navigational accesses, and determined user navigational objectives;

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation for modifying the structural relationships, including links, between objects of interest to influence alternate future user navigation between objects of interest; and

monitoring activity associated with said web site;

maintaining data representative of said activity and a present structure of said web site;

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation; and modifying said structure of said web site based on said recommendation;

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wherein said maintaining step further comprises at least one of the following steps:

- (a) creating an elements data structure, wherein said elements data structure indicates a total number of objects of interest within the website;
- (b) creating a session step data structure, wherein said session step data structure indicates the maximum number of steps in any of said user sessions;
- (c) creating a SPUS structure, wherein said SPUS structure indicates a total number of steps per user session;
- (d) creating a TUS structure, wherein said TUS structure indicates a total number of user sessions;
- (e) creating a CLASS structure, wherein said CLASS structure indicates a class for each object of interest in said web site; and
- (f) creating a TC structure, wherein said TC structure indicates a total number of said classes in said web site.

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31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said maintaining step further comprises at least one of the following steps:

- (a) creating a distance matrix, said distance matrix having two dimensions, wherein said distance matrix indicates the shortest object distance;
- (b) creating a links-to matrix, said links-to matrix having two dimensions in the form [x][y], wherein said links-to matrix indicates the number of links to a particular object of interest by a specific Step or less, the number of links is indicated by [y], the specific Step or less is indicated by [x];
- (c) creating a links-from matrix, said links-from matrix having two dimensions in the form [x][y], wherein said links-from matrix indicates the total number of links from a certain object of interest to other objects of interest by a specific Step or less, the total number of links to other objects of interest being indicated by [x], and the specific Step or less being indicated by [y];
- (d) creating a total accesses-to matrix, wherein said total accesses-to matrix indicates the total number of accesses to a particular object of interest in a specific Step within said user session;
- (e) creating a total access-from matrix, wherein said total access-from matrix indicates the total number of accesses from a particular object in a specific step within said user session; and
- (f) creating an access matrix, said access matrix having three dimensions in the form [x][y][z], wherein said access matrix indicates the number of times an object of interest was accessed from one particular object of interest to a different object of interest at a specific Step, from one particular object of interest being indicated by [x], to a different object of interest being indicated by [y], and the specific Step being indicated by [z].
- 32. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 30.

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33. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 31.

34. (currently amended) A method for modifying the structure of a network accessible web site based on an analysis of activity associated with the web site, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a web site comprising a plurality of objects of interest including a plurality of pages within the website;

identifying one or more structural relationships for navigating between the plurality of objects of interest;

identifying within monitored user interactions a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating between the plurality of objects of interest and determining user navigational objectives;

maintaining data representative of said objects of interest, structural relationships including links between objects, sequential user navigational accesses, and determined user navigational objectives;

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation for modifying the structural relationships, including links, between objects of interest to influence alternate future user navigation between objects of interest; and

monitoring activity associated with said web site;

maintaining data representative of said activity and a present structure of said web site:

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation; and modifying said structure of said web site based on said recommendation; wherein the basic rules are applied utilizing a rule engine algorithm and an anomalies floatation device, the step of applying a set of rules further comprises the steps of:

 applying a rule of object distance, wherein said object distance is the number of objects of interest that must be accessed to get from one of said objects of interest to a different object of interest;

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(b) applying a rule of Step, wherein the Step is the number of objects of interest that is actually accessed to get from one of said objects of interest to a different said objects of interest during said user session; and

- (c) applying a rule of Class, wherein said Class is the number of objects of interest that must be accessed to get from said homepage of said web site to said objects of interest.
- 35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein said step of applying a set of rules further comprises the steps of:

transferring the maintained data to said anomaly floatation device;
comparing an expected activity data to said data representative of said activity,
wherein said anomalies floatation device having an output comprised of anomalies; and
grouping said anomalies according to said activity, wherein said grouping is
performed by said rule engine algorithm to indicate recommendations.

- 36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of comparing further comprises at least one of the following steps:
  - applying a step-distance anomaly, wherein said step-distance anomaly is based on at least the number of accesses in the particular Step and the distance between two particular objects of interest;
  - (b) applying a no-link anomaly, wherein said no-link anomaly is based at least in part on the number of accesses in a particular Step and the distance between the two particular objects of interest, the two particular objects of interest having no direct hyperlink;
  - (c) applying a dominant anomaly, wherein said dominant anomaly is based at least in part on a dominant object of interest from which the most accesses are made to a particular object of interest in a particular Step;
  - (d) applying a deficiency anomaly, wherein said deficiency anomaly is based at least in part on a deficient object of interest to which a deficient number of accesses are made from a particular object of interest in a particular

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Step;

(e) applying a dominant-connect anomaly, wherein said dominant-connect anomaly is based at least in part on a dominant number of accesses being made from said dominant object of interest among a plurality of connected objects of interest to a particular object of interest in a particular Step;

- (f) applying a deficiency-connect anomaly, wherein said deficiency-connect anomaly is based at least in part on a deficient number of accesses being made from a deficient object of interest among a plurality of connected objects of interest to a particular object of interest in a particular Step; and
- (g) creating a high access ratio anomaly, wherein said high access ratio anomaly is based at least in part on the number of accesses in a particular step using only one direction of access and the distance between the two particular objects of interest, the two particular objects of interest having no direct hyperlink.
- 37. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein if the step of applying a dominant anomaly is applied, the step of comparing further comprises at least one of the following steps:
  - (h) applying a threshold-dominant anomaly, wherein said threshold-dominant anomaly is based at least in part on the most accesses to a given object of interest at a plurality of step distances, the accesses to said given object of interest must exceed a pre-set minimum; and
  - (i) applying a complete-a-link anomaly, wherein said complete-a-link anomaly is based at least in part on the ratio of accesses from a particular objects of interest directly linked to another versus a particular objects of interest linked to others by a greater distance.
- 38. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 34.

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39. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 35.

- 40. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 36.
- 41. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 37.
  - 42. (canceled)
  - 43. (canceled)
- 44. (currently amended) An apparatus for modifying the structure of a network accessible web site, the apparatus comprising:
  - a communications means for establishing communications with said web site;
- a first input for accepting data representative of structure relationships for navigating objects of interest;

a second input for accepting data representative of sequential user accesses navigating the structure of the web site;

a memory buffer for providing storage for said structure associated with said web site and said navigational activity;

a processing unit for:

identifying a web site comprising a plurality of objects of interest <u>including</u> a plurality of pages within the website;

identifying one or more structural relationships for navigating the plurality of objects of interest;

identifying <u>within monitored user interactions</u> a plurality of sequential user accesses navigating <u>between</u> the plurality of objects of interest <u>and determining user navigational objectives</u>;

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maintaining data representative of said objects of interest, structural relationships including links between objects, and sequential user navigational accesses and determined user navigational objectives; and

applying a set of rules to said data to generate a recommendation for modifying the structural relationships, including links, between objects of interest to influence alternate future user navigation between objects of interest.

- 45. (canceled)
- 46. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein an object of interest comprises a single network accessible document.
- 47. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein an object of interest comprises a plurality of network accessible documents.
- 48. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user accesses are automated.
  - 49. (canceled)
  - 50. (canceled)
  - 51. (canceled)
  - 52. (canceled)
- 53. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

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creating a single data field representative of combined attributes of the objects of interest, structural relationships, and user access data.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

modifying the structural relationships between objects of interest based at least on said recommendation.

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- 4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jim Schutz on 12/16/05.
- 5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Examiner's Amendment 12/16/05 places the application into condition for allowance by adding the features to independent claims 1, 12, 16, 30, 34, 44: that the objects of interest include a plurality of pages within the website and that the structural relationships for navigating are between the plurality of objects of interest and include links; that identifying is within monitored user interactions and for determining user navigational objectives; that the data includes links between objects,-sequential user navigational accesses, and determined user navigational objectives; and that the rules influence alternate future user navigation between objects of interest. The claims now all distinguish over the prior art of record.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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